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No. 10

House of Representatives

The House met at 10 a.m. and was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Mr. PAULSEN).

DESIGNATION OF SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore laid before the House the following communication from the Speaker:

WASHINGTON, DC,
January 24, 2012.

I hereby appoint the Honorable ERIK PAULSEN to act as Speaker pro tempore on this day.

JOHN A. BOEHNER,
Speaker of the House of Representatives.

MORNING-HOUR DEBATE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the order of the House of January 17, 2012, the Chair will now recognize Members from lists submitted by the majority and minority leaders for morning-hour debate.

The Chair will alternate recognition between the parties, with each party limited to 1 hour and each Member other than the majority and minority leaders and the minority whip limited to 5 minutes each, but in no event shall debate continue beyond 11:50 a.m.

AFGHANISTAN SITUATION

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from North Carolina (Mr. JONES) for 5 minutes.

Mr. JONES. Mr. Speaker, on January 12, CBS Evening News did a segment on just how impossible is the situation in Afghanistan. This is something I have been speaking out on for months and months and months, and I think CBS illustrated beautifully just how dire of a situation it is in Afghanistan. I will read excerpts from the report containing examples of just how inept the Afghan Army is.

"CBS News correspondent Clarissa Ward found one reason in the Pech Valley. Americans lost their lives there building a base called Nangalam. When they tried to hand over their gains to the Afghan Army, the base went to ruin.

"Army Major Guillermo Guillen, from southern California, is frustrated. 'You're relying on us to do all of your security for you. You need to be participating,' Guillen told an Afghan counterpart.

"On a recent patrol, some Afghan soldiers were not wearing helmets. One chatted on his cell phone.

"The United States military left Nangalam base last February, handing over to Afghan forces. But within weeks, things went badly wrong."

Remember, Mr. Speaker, this is a CBS national report.

"Enemy forces returned to roam freely through the valley. The Afghan commander deserted. Hundreds of his soldiers followed.

"The Afghan forces that remained ransacked their own base. All the electric wires have been pulled out. Anything of any value was taken. You can see the wire hanging out of the light."

Mr. Speaker, "A new Afghan Army unit has been brought in with a new commander, Colonel Turab. U.S. officers have nicknamed him 'Honest Abe.' And he was honest to a fault about the prospects of the Afghan Army."

Mr. Speaker, listen very carefully: "It will take about 30 years' for the Afghan Army to be ready, Turab said through a translator. 'And if they are reformed and the corruption is removed,' it will take about 10 years.

How many \$10 billion a month do we have to spend? How many young men and women have to die for a failed policy? History has proven you will never, never change Afghanistan no matter what you do.

This poster beside me is a wife in tears whose husband was killed in Af-

ghanistan, and the little girl, as you can see, Mr. Speaker, is looking at the flag. She has no idea that her daddy is dead. She will know one day that her father died to prop up a corrupt leader named Karzai and a corrupt government, and then she will learn from the history books as she gets into high school that no nation has ever conquered Afghanistan and no nation will ever conquer Afghanistan.

As we listen to the President tonight and he talks about the state of affairs, I hope he will mention that he intends to bring our troops home now, not in 2014. In 2014, I do not know how many young men and women have to lose their legs, their arms, and die. So I hope both parties will come together this spring and talk about bringing our troops home now, not 2014.

With that, Mr. Speaker, I will ask God to please bless our men and women in uniform and their families, to bless the families who have given a child dying for freedom in Afghanistan and Iraq, and ask God to please continue to bless America.

[From cbsnews.com, Jan. 12, 2012]

NANGALAM: A SYMBOL OF THE AFGHAN WAR'S TROUBLES

(By Clarissa Ward)

Most Americans in Afghanistan are doing their best in a war that's now in its 11th year. Why has it taken this long?

CBS News correspondent Clarissa Ward found one reason in the Pech Valley. Americans lost their lives there building a base called Nangalam. When they tried to hand over their gains to the Afghan army, the base went to ruin.

This is one part of Afghanistan that America thought it could finally leave. But U.S. troops are back, trying once again to train their Afghan allies.

Army Major Guillermo Guillen, from Southern California, is frustrated.

"You're relying on us to do all your security for you. You need to be participating," Guillen told an Afghan counterpart.

On a recent patrol, some Afghan soldiers were not wearing helmets. One chatted on his cell phone.

□ This symbol represents the time of day during the House proceedings, e.g., □ 1407 is 2:07 p.m.

Matter set in this typeface indicates words inserted or appended, rather than spoken, by a Member of the House on the floor.



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